

From: Willamowski, Sheila
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 4:27 PM
To: 'Thompson, Chrissie'
CC: Miller, Brad; Balmert, Jessie
Subject: RE: Public Records Request Acknowledgement/Inquiry

Dear Ms. Thompson,

Thank you for your email. We will proceed accordingly as regarding point one.

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That may avoid caucus-wide ALEC requests and other expansive topics that would require that I forward you dozens of attachment emails.

Please advise at your convenience. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sheila Louise Willamowski
Deputy Legal Counsel
House Republican Caucus
Ohio House of Representatives
Sheila.willamowski@ohiohouse.gov
614.466.2179

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From: Thompson, Chrissie <cthompson@enquirer.com>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 11:25 AM
To: Willamowski, Sheila <Sheila.Willamowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Balmert, Jessie <jbalmert@gannett.com>
Subject: RE: Public Records Request Acknowledgement/Inquiry

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(Re: "Records responsive for all requests related to Rosenberger from Jan. 1, 2017 to April 12, 2018. (Jessie already had a request in from April 2 to the present, so this is an expansion of that item.)")

Thanks.

Chrissie Thompson
Columbus bureau chief

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cthompson@enquirer.com

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From: Sheila.Willamowski@ohiohouse.gov [mailto:Sheila.Willamowski@ohiohouse.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 11:06 AM
To: Thompson, Chrissie <cthompson@enquirer.com>

Cc: Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov

Subject: Public Records Request Acknowledgement/Inquiry

Dear Ms. Thompson,

Our office has received your public records request made to Mr. Brad Miller on April 12, 2018. In reviewing this request, we have the following questions:

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Ohio House of Representatives

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To: Willamowski, Sheila
CC: Miller, Brad; Balmert, Jessie
Subject: Re: Public Records Request Acknowledgement/Inquiry

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Chrissie Thompson
Cincinnati Enquirer
513-368-2883
Sent from my iPhone

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Columbus bureau chief

<image001.png>

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Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 9:53 AM
To: 'Thompson, Chrissie'
CC: Miller, Brad; Balmert, Jessie
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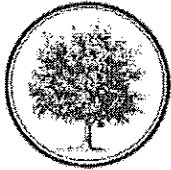
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 4:01 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Buckeye Institute Experts Weigh-In on Budget Conference Committee Report

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 28, 2017

Buckeye Institute Experts Weigh-In on Budget Conference Committee Report

Columbus, OH - The Senate and House have passed the Budget Conference Committee Report and experts from **The Buckeye Institute** issued their reactions.

"The final version of the state budget that is heading to Governor Kasich's desk is one of the best budgets we have seen in a while in Ohio," said **Greg R. Lawson**, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "While there could have been greater spending reductions, along with greater reform of school funding and local taxes, there was solid spending restraint and efforts to contain Medicaid spending -- the 'Pac-Man' of Ohio's budget. These are all noteworthy accomplishments."

Several major policies The Buckeye Institute has advocated for made it through the legislative process, including:

- Greater spending restraint;
- Making it clear that the policy of the state is to seek the least restrictive regulations when dealing with occupational licensing;
- Several key criminal justice reforms;
- Reform to business municipal income tax filing;
- Freezing Medicaid expansion enrollment; and
- Setting a deadline for applying for a state innovation waiver in order to regain some control over Ohio's health insurance marketplace.

Spending

"The budget keeps a tighter rein on spending than most recent budgets, with all funds spending in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 increasing by 2.4 percent and 2.1 percent respectively. When looking at just state general revenues, Ohio will spend less in FY2019 than it was projected to spend by the end of the current fiscal year on June 30," said Lawson. "This move to a more sustainable level of state spending will help secure prosperity for Ohioans and their children."

Medicaid

"The General Assembly took a bold step in ensuring that needy Ohioans can get access to the medical care they need. The Assembly's budget calls for changes to the Medicaid program that will boost health care savings for many Medicaid recipients and help move them into private coverage," said **Rea S. Hederman Jr.**, executive vice president at The Buckeye Institute and a nationally recognized expert in healthcare policy. "Ohio became the first state in the nation to call for a freeze on the Medicaid expansion population, which will focus the program on the truly needy and encourage able bodied adults to return to work. Medicaid enrollment has exceeded forecasts on both enrollment and costs, and this budget will help make the program sustainable for the future."

Criminal Justice

"At every step of the budget process, starting with Governor Kasich's original budget through conference committee, Ohio policymakers showed devotion to providing tools and resources to make Ohio communities safer and save taxpayer dollars through criminal justice reform," said **Daniel J. Dew**, legal fellow at The Buckeye Institute's **Legal Center**. "When society sends low-level offenders to prison, taxpayers pay a hefty bill only to see these people come back to our communities alienated from society and more dangerous than when they went in. The governor, the Senate, and the House all recognize that Ohioans deserve a better return on their investment."

Dew continued, "By providing resources to Ohio communities, the budget's **Target Community Alternatives to Prison** (TCAP) program will allow local judges, law enforcement, and prosecutors to get low-level offenders, many of whom are struggling with addiction and mental health issues, the treatment necessary to help prevent a life of hardened crime. TCAP has been a success in the eight pilot program counties, and as it is adopted around the state, Ohioans everywhere will reap the benefits of evidence-based policy."

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

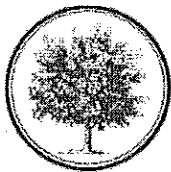
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 7:52 PM

To: Miller, Brad

Subject: Dun, dun, dun--Kasich's time for choosing--the Ohio budget and two paths

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

In case you were wondering what the bloody h-e-double-hockey-stick is happening in the war going on tonight and tomorrow over Ohio's biennial budget, we have a timely update: Governor Kasich--by law--has until Friday to either sign or veto the final budget that was passed today before the new fiscal year begins on Saturday....

Pressure is mounting. All eyes are once again on our beloved state.

In this battle, your Buckeye Institute has indefatigably supplied the intellectual ammunition of good policy to a legislature that was set on trying to do the fiscally responsible thing.

Governor Kasich is big on making choices as to taking one of two paths, and his time for choosing has officially arrived.

There is a fiscally responsible option, which is to sign the budget, and there is a decision that would saddle our children and grandchildren with unsustainable levels of government programs and spending for generations, which is to line-item veto the waiver provisions upon which Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof heroically insisted.

Your Buckeye Institute has spoken up every chance we had--in the thick of negotiations, to the media, and publicly on the record to anyone who would listen.

There is now nothing more that we can do except cross our fingers, hope, and pray to {insert deity of your choice} that Governor Kasich returns to his fiscally conservative roots and proves how firm his friendship is to O-H-I-O.

A few hours ago, Buckeye's Executive Vice President Rea Hederman posted a new piece in The Hill explaining the Medicaid expansion and healthcare issue more fully in an article worth reading, "[Ohio is blazing the trail on healthcare reform.](#)"

To paraphrase Bill Clinton, the big-government jig is up, friends.

It's time to put Obamacare down to its final resting place and lead these United States back toward freedom and prosperity.

Your call, Mr. Governor.

Let's do it! Let's put Ohio back on the map as the undisputed leader of our nation once again. Blaze that trail. Show the rest of the states how it's done by rejecting Obamacare and securing Ohio the flexibility we need to chart our own path forward in healthcare.

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Support The Buckeye Institute!



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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 8:02 AM

To: Miller, Brad

Subject: ICYMI: Buckeye's Rea Hederman in *The Hill* looking at the bold health care initiatives that Ohio's General Assembly passed

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Buckeye's Rea Hederman has a new piece in *The Hill* looking at the bold health care initiatives that Ohio's General Assembly passed where he says:

"Like many other states across the country, Ohio lawmakers have had enough. Emboldened by the Trump Administration's professed willingness to extend states flexibility on health care and rejoin them at the bargaining table, Ohio will soon be sending Washington Medicaid and state innovation waiver requests designed to curb Medicaid expansion and cut cost overruns."

You can follow Rea on Twitter [@ReaHedermanJr](#).

Ohio, Blazing the Trail on Health Care Reform

The Hill

By Rea S. Hederman Jr.

June 28, 2017

Ohio is a bellwether state -- it has always has been. So as the U.S. Senate grapples with health care reform legislation and the lingering legacy of ObamaCare, senators would be

well-advised to pay attention to the bold health care initiatives that Ohio's General Assembly just passed.

After Ohio Governor John Kasich unilaterally expanded Ohio's Medicaid program in 2013, the state's Medicaid rolls have since ballooned by more than 700,000 people -- 40 percent more than originally projected. The pac-man of virtually every state's budget continues to devour ever-larger chunks of the state's resources and has pushed Ohio's own budget to the brink.

Like many other states across the country, Ohio lawmakers have had enough. Emboldened by the Trump Administration's professed willingness to extend states flexibility on health care and rejoin them at the bargaining table, Ohio will soon be sending Washington Medicaid and state innovation waiver requests designed to curb Medicaid expansion and cut cost overruns.

Ohio's trial balloon will be watched carefully as other states consider their own waivers to help rein-in runaway Medicaid costs and protect their insurance markets.

The state's General Assembly has just insisted that Governor Kasich submit two significant waiver requests to Trump's Administration by early next year. The waivers will reduce Ohio's Medicaid costs and create a more-seamless transition for people moving from Medicaid into affordable private coverage -- something vitally important given the current death spiral of Obamacare exchanges.

First, the Healthy Ohio program will reduce Medicaid costs and help recipients obtain private coverage. Building on the foundation of Healthy Indiana, Healthy Ohio will require non-disabled Medicaid recipients to contribute to a health savings account, or HSA, and earn rewards for embracing healthier lifestyle choices.

Medicaid recipients who do not pay into a HSA within 60 days will lose coverage until they make the appropriate payment. The Healthy Ohio program will reinforce personal responsibility for medical care and help those with limited histories of receiving coverage acclimate to private health insurance markets.

The second waiver, known as a state innovation or 1332 waiver, will ask Washington to waive several costly burdens imposed by Obama-era regulations, including the unpopular individual mandate and many of the coverage mandates forced on consumers participating in Obamacare exchanges.

The U.S. Senate's healthcare bill appears poised to expand the use of 1332 waivers -- and that's a good sign. As someone once said, elections have consequences, and with Trump in town Ohio and several other states stand ready to return their health insurance markets to more competitive, cost-effective days.

In addition to insisting on seeking greater flexibility from Washington, the Ohio Senate and conservatives in the Ohio House won a hard-fought budget battle and managed to freeze the state's expanded Medicaid population.

Individuals already enrolled in the expanded population may remain in the program, but as of July 1, 2018, Ohio will not cover the expanded Medicaid population created under the Obamacare framework. Such a freeze will gradually reduce caseloads and focus Medicaid dollars on the most needy -- and Ohio Senators especially, who stood their ground fighting for these reforms, deserve applause and appreciation for their efforts.

As long as Governor Kasich does not misguidedly veto the Assembly's significant achievements, Ohio will blaze a trail for other states to follow as they try to regain control of their healthcare and insurance markets. And once again, as Ohio goes, so goes the nation.

*Rea S. Hederman Jr. is executive vice president and chief operating officer of **The Buckeye Institute**, a think tank promoting free market principles, and is an expert in healthcare policy.*

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 2:40 PM
To: Best, Carolyn; Adams, Alexandra; Slack, Cora; Miller, Brad; Cho, Joy
CC: Rossman, Brent
Subject: PR ALERT - Goodman budget (sending at 3:10)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:

June 29, 2017

Rossman

Contact: Brent

(614) 644-6265

Rep. Goodman Votes to Rein In Spending and Stop Obamacare, Sends Budget Bill to Governor

COLUMBUS—State Representative Wes Goodman (R-Cardington) today announced that the Ohio House of Representatives has approved the conference committee report on Amended Substitute House Bill 49, the state operating budget. The \$132.8 billion spending plan sets state spending levels for the next two fiscal years. Representative Goodman issued the following statement:

I voted no on the House's initial spending plan for two major reasons: it did not reduce spending levels by a great enough amount and did not make significant enough strides to stop Obamacare's Medicaid expansion in Ohio. I am pleased to report that the conference committee addressed these two concerns, earning my support of the bill today.

State revenue has been coming in under projections for months now, which has required us to make difficult decisions in this budget. Ultimately over a billion dollars in spending was cut from the Governor's proposal to the version of the budget passed, all without raising taxes. The bill now holds spending growth under the rate of inflation, an important accomplishment. In an age where government seems to be always growing and spending more, I am glad to say that the Ohio's budget bucks this trend by limiting growth and forcing the government to live within its means.

The spending plan passed also freezes enrollment for Obamacare's Medicaid expansion beginning in 2018. This provision puts the brakes on the unsustainable Medicaid program, ensuring that the state's limited resources are preserved for the truly vulnerable. It does this while also ensuring that those who are currently covered through the expansion can maintain their coverage until they are able to improve their situation and obtain a better form of insurance. Make no mistake, this vote is the single most impactful action taken by a state to roll back the Affordable Care Act and ensure better health care choices for Ohioans since the law passed in 2010.

No budget is ever perfect, this one included. Ohio still has many issues confronting us. More must be done to rein in spending and limit the size and scope of government. Businesses and individuals would benefit greatly from fundamental pro-growth tax reform. To remain competitive in the modern economy our state must work to reform labor through right-to-work and get rid of occupational licensing barriers that keep individuals from working. We must ensure that above all, all citizens receive the full protection that the constitutions of the United States and Ohio afford for their liberties."

Am. Sub. H.B. 49 will now head to the Governor for his consideration.

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 3:00 PM
To: Westlake, Libby; Adams, Alexandra; Slack, Cora; Miller, Brad; Cho, Joy
CC: Rossman, Brent
Subject: RE: PR ALERT - Goodman budget (sending at 3:10)

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 2:40 PM
To: Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Rossman, Brent <Brent.Rossman@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: PR ALERT - Goodman budget (sending at 3:10)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:

June 29, 2017

Rossman

Contact: Brent

(614) 644-6265

Rep. Goodman Votes to Rein In Spending and Stop Obamacare, Sends Budget Bill to Governor

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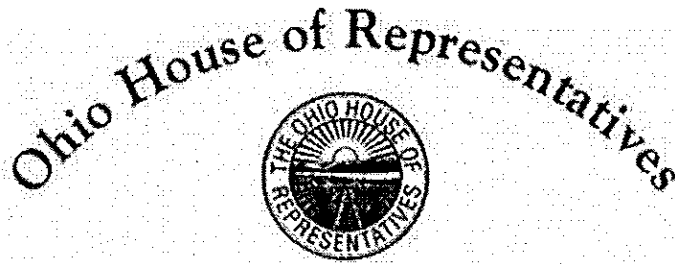
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No budget is ever perfect, this one included. Ohio still has many issues confronting us. More must be done to rein in spending and limit the size and scope of government. Businesses and individuals would benefit greatly from fundamental pro-growth tax reform. To remain competitive in the modern economy our state must work to reform labor through right-to-work and get rid of occupational licensing barriers that keep individuals from working. We must ensure that above all, all citizens receive the full protection that the constitutions of the United States and Ohio afford for their liberties."

Am. Sub. H.B. 49 will now head to the Governor for his consideration.

From: Rep87
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2017 1:35 PM
To: GOP_All
Subject: Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Freeze Information
Attachments: Freeze Brief.pdf; We The People Convention Expansion Freeze Poll.pdf



Memorandum

To: House Republican Caucus
From: Representative Wes Goodman
Date: June 30th, 2017
Re: Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Freeze Information

I would first of all like to everyone who has offered their support to the Medicaid expansion enrollment freeze. As I said on this House floor, this is the most impactful action taken by any state to roll back and stop the Affordable Care Act, fulfilling promises we have all made to ensure a higher quality of care for all Ohioans. I thank you for your courage in joining me in the fight to ensure that our citizens are free to make their own healthcare choices, and that our Medicaid program is refocused on serving the truly vulnerable.

By now I am sure you have heard from detractors claiming that the freeze is not in the best interest of Ohioans. I encourage you to take a look at the following resources that support our decision and make clear that an expansion freeze is sound public policy.

- Attached: *Freeze Brief*, provides a general outline and talking points on the expansion freeze.
- Attached: *We the People Convention Expansion Freeze Poll*. This poll was taken yesterday, June 29th, and shows that 60.6% of all Ohioans and 81% of

all Republicans do NOT want Governor Kasich to line-item veto the expansion freeze.

- Articles by Buckeye Institute Executive Vice President Rea Hederman Jr, published in The Hill
 - Highlighting issues with the sustainability and level of care provided by Medicaid: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/336600-medicare-doesnt-work-people-who-are-on-it-dont-have-better>
 - Highlighting and analyzing Ohio's role in "blazing the trail" on Medicaid reform: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/339889-ohio-is-blazing-the-trail-on-healthcare-reform>
- National Review article analyzing the fallaciousness of the bombastic claim, "people will die!": <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/448952/obamacare-repeal-will-not-kill-thousands>
 - Note that this article is focuses on the claims being made about the Federal healthcare plans. This claim is even more detached from reality when used to decry our expansion freeze, which allows those currently covered to maintain coverage as long as they are eligible.
- Article by Foundation for Government Accountability VP of Research Jonathan Ingram, explaining how the expansion has drawn funding away from the truly vulnerable: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/320620-freezing-obamacare-expansion-will-save-taxpayers-and-the-truly>
- Article by Foundation for Government Accountability Senior Fellow Sam Adolphsen, presenting evidence that the expansion may actually exacerbate the opioid crisis: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/state-local-politics/339892-want-to-end-the-opioid-epidemic-start-by-freezing>
- Poll from the Foundation for Government Accountability, showing that voters support freezing the Medicaid expansion: <https://thefga.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/National-MedEx-Freeze-Poll-1-23-17.pdf>
- An op-ed that I recently penned that was published by the Daily Signal: <http://dailysignal.com/2017/06/30/ohio-already-rolling-back-parts-obamacare-states-can/>

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to joining you next week to override the Governor's veto, if need be.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance to you. My cell phone is (419) 210-0800 and I am available for questions anytime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wes', enclosed within a rectangular box.

Medicaid Expansion Freeze Brief

What the Freeze Does

- Prohibits the Medicaid program from covering the Group VIII (expansion) population beginning on July 1, 2018.
- Exempts those with diagnosed mental illnesses or drug addiction, allowing them to enroll after the freeze date.
- Allows those expansion enrollees enrolled by July 1, 2018 to maintain their coverage until they become ineligible or the enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for the Group VIII population is reduced by federal legislation.

Freezing expansion protects the truly needy

- Ohio's Medicaid waiting list enrollment sits at nearly 60,000. These are Ohioans with severe intellectual and developmental disabilities who aren't getting the care they need.
- Meanwhile, Ohio is spending billions on welfare for able-bodied (mostly childless) adults.
- Every penny spent on these adults is a penny that can't go to help Ohio's truly vulnerable.
- An enrollment freeze would immediately begin to make the truly needy a priority once again by moving able-bodied adults back to independence and freeing up limited resources for the vulnerable.

Freezing expansion protects taxpayers

- Ohio's Medicaid expansion has been overbudget since Day One.
- From January 2014 through March 2017, total expansion costs ran \$6.1 billion higher than originally projected in 2013 – an overrun of 94 percent. By the end of the year, that overrun will total a whopping \$8.3 billion.
- State taxpayers are now on the hook for 5% of these costs, with that share growing to 10% by 2020. Although the state has only been paying a share of the cost for a few months, the state's share has already run \$38 million over projections – an overrun of 125 percent. That overrun is projected to increase to \$145 million by the end of the year.
- Congress is poised to repeal the enhanced funding for expansion altogether. The House version of the American Healthcare Act (AHCA) would eliminate enhanced funding for new enrollees after 2020. The Senate version eliminates enhanced funding through a 3-year phase out, beginning in 2021.
- An enrollment freeze would stop the bleeding immediately, reducing costs and giving taxpayers much-needed relief. Based on the experiences in other states, freezing expansion enrollment at the end of the fiscal year will save between \$4.2 billion and \$5.5 billion over the next biennium. The state share of those savings would total between \$243 million and \$315 million.

Freezing expansion protects enrollees

- An enrollment freeze would allow current enrollees to stay on the program as long as they remain eligible.
- This avoids disruption for enrollees, allowing them to maintain enrollment until their situation improves enough that they can obtain insurance through the individual market or an employer.

Freezing expansion is politically popular

- A national 2017 poll found that voters support freezing Medicaid expansion enrollment by nearly two-to-one margins (53% to 33%).

Freezing expansion is practical and possible

- Other states have used enrollment freezes to unwind pre-ObamaCare expansions to childless adults and to unwind S-CHIP expansions.
- Freezes were previously approved by President Bush and President Obama.
- CMS can grant a waiver to allow states to freeze enrollment.
- CMS is set to release new guidance that will provide state options to freeze enrollment and reduce eligibility levels in the expansion.

Freezing expansion would have no effect on the drug addicted and mentally ill

- Mental health and addiction services accounted for only 5.62% of total expansion spending in 2016.
- Conference committee's version of the budget exempts individuals with mental health and drug addictions from the freeze, allowing them to enroll or reenroll past the freeze date of July 1, 2018.

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, June 29, 2017

POLL SHOWS OHIOANS – ESPECIALLY REPUBLICANS – DEMAND MEDICAID EXPANSION FREEZE

Akron, OH – Tom Zawistowski, President of the We the People Convention announced the results of a statewide Ohio poll tonight concerning the Medicaid Expansion Freeze that was included in the Budget just passed on Wednesday by the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate. Contrary to polls put out by medical groups and others who benefit financially from Medicaid Expansion, the We the People Convention Poll shows that 60.6% of all Ohioans do NOT want Governor Kasich to line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze in the budget, which does not cut anyone's Medicaid benefits, but simply stops growing the program that is already \$7 Billion over budget. Furthermore, the survey showed that if Governor Kasich does line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze, a plurality of all Ohioans, 51.7% to 49.3%, said that they would want the Ohio House and Ohio Senate to reconvene next week and override the Governor's veto.

Since the state is controlled by Republicans and the Budget was pass with only Republican votes, all of them from Governor Kasich, to Speaker Rosenberger and Senate President Obhof, and every Republican in the Ohio House and Ohio Senate, will get a very strong message from the poll results from their Republican voters. A total of 81% of Republican voters do NOT want Governor Kasich to line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze. Then an equally strong 68.5% of Republican voters want Republicans in the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate to Override the Governor's Veto if required.

Commenting on the poll, Zawistowski said, "Ohioans understand that Governor Kasich's Medicaid Expansion is simply unsustainable. We credit the Republican members of the Ohio House and Ohio Senate, and their leadership, for recognizing that someone has to stop Kasich before he bankrupts Ohio. While we in the TEA Party/Liberty movement believe that Medicaid Expansion should be ended – its not Medicaid it is welfare expansion – we were convinced that a first step of just stopping the growth of the program, without cutting anyone's benefits, was a "caring way" to take a first step as our Governor likes to say. We fully expect him to line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze because John Kasich sees no reason to ever stop giving other people's money away while pretending he cares so much about people – but never mentioning the tax payers who pay for all his misguided spending. Therefore, we also fully expect, and all Republicans should expect, all 59 House Members who voted for the budget with the Freeze in it on Wednesday, and ALL 7 members who did not vote for the budget, to join all 23 members of the Senate next Thursday, July 6th and impose some financial sanity on the Governor by overriding his veto and representing their constituents – particularly the tax payers in their districts who are paying the bill for this irresponsible and unnecessary spending."

This Ohio poll was conducted for the We the People Convention, Inc. by TRZ Communications Services, Inc. of Akron, Ohio which was the polling company that first predicted the Trump Ohio landslide victory in last year's Presidential election. This automated poll was conducted on Thursday, June 29, 2017 between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM. The poll was designed to gather public opinion on the issue of Freezing Medicaid Expansion in Ohio. Calls were placed to 45,105 randomly selected voters from our data base of 4.5 million current land line phone numbers in Ohio. Of the 9,901 who answered our call, 625 respondents completed our automated poll, a 6.3% response rate. The poll has a margin of error of $\pm 4.0\%$ at the 95% confidence level. Demographically 26.99% of respondents vote Democrat, 29.6% vote Republican and 43% do not affiliate with any party. The gender breakdown was 57.68% women and 42.32% men. Results were gathered from 80 of the 88 Counties in Ohio. Every age group from 24 year olds to 90 year olds were surveyed.

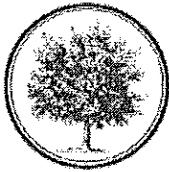
Answer	Number	Percent	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Veto the Freeze	246	39.4%	35 - 19%	90 - 52.3%	121 - 45%
Do NOT Veto the Freeze	379	60.6%	149 - 81%	82 - 47.7%	148 - 55%
Override the Veto	317	51.7%	126 - 68.5%	65 - 37.8%	126 - 46.8%
Do NOT Override the Veto	308	49.3%	58 - 31.5%	107 - 62.2%	142 - 53.2%

Source: <http://www.wethepeopleconvention.org/>

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Saturday, July 1, 2017 12:30 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Buckeye Institute: Kasich Signs Ohio's Budget, Vetoes Critical Medicaid Reform

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Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

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July 1, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

Buckeye Institute: Kasich Signs Ohio's Budget, Vetoes Critical Medicaid Reform

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute issued the following statement on Governor John Kasich's decision to veto the Medicaid freeze.

"We are disappointed that Governor Kasich did not adhere to the will of the General Assembly in putting guard rails on the Medicaid expansion. His veto of the freeze guarantees that this 'Pac-Man' of the state budget will continue to crowd out other critical spending priorities while not ensuring those enrolled in Medicaid are getting access to the best health care."

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



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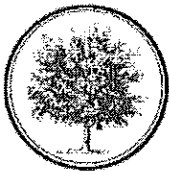
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Subject: Buckeye Experts Weigh-In on House Veto Overrides

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July 6, 2017

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Buckeye Experts Weigh-In on House Veto Overrides

*Action Restores Legislative Oversight, Begins to Reform Medicaid but Doesn't do Enough,
Misses Opportunity to Hold Local Governments Accountable on Spending*

Columbus, OH - Today, the Ohio House overrode several of Governor John Kasich's vetoes and **The Buckeye Institute's** experts weighed-in.

The House overrode the Governor's veto of a measure which restored legislative oversight to approving Medicaid spending increases rather than limiting approval to the Controlling Board. This is a critical measure to ensure that the will of the people, as expressed through their elected representatives, is honored.

"The Administration tried to restrict the legislature's role in overseeing Ohio's budget by limiting its ability to approve spending increases to Medicaid, which currently accounts for 37 percent of the state's budget," said **Greg R. Lawson**, research fellow

at The Buckeye Institute. "By reasserting its proper oversight role, the Ohio House has sent a clear signal that it, as the elected representatives of the people, is the proper body to approve spending increases."

Lawson continued, "Unfortunately, the House failed to bring up an override of the misguided veto of the Medicaid expansion freeze, which would have further ensured that the program is made sustainable and is focused on the truly needy. Under the Medicaid expansion, the program was originally project to grow to 440,000 by 2020, but has well exceeded that estimate and currently stands at more than 700,00. If the program isn't reformed, it will crowd out all other important spending priorities and we will saddle our children and grandchildren with unsustainable levels of government spending for generations."

The Ohio House also overrode the Governor's veto of the Healthy Ohio waiver. This override puts back into place the requirement that the Administration submit the waiver request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"Healthy Ohio is just one part of improving Ohio's Medicaid system and ensuring it is sustainable for the neediest Ohioans," said **Rea S. Hederman Jr.**, executive vice president at The Buckeye Institute and a nationally recognized expert in health care policy. "The program will enable non-disabled Medicaid recipients to contribute to a health savings account and allow them to use that money to purchase private health insurance, giving them access to better quality health care and rewarding them for embracing healthier lifestyle choices."

Unfortunately, the House overrode the Governor's veto of the Medicaid managed care sales tax replacement plan.

"Despite our disagreement with Governor Kasich on vetoing the Medicaid freeze, we were glad he vetoed the proposed replacement for local Medicaid sales tax revenues. It is disappointing the Ohio House has again re-instituted this bad policy," Lawson. "It was obvious that the federal government was going to disallow this tax on Medicaid managed care organizations, and local governments and transit authorities should have known not to rely on this money to fund local services. By overriding the governor's veto, the House has enabled local governments to blame Columbus for 'cutting' funding whenever they want to avoid making tough spending decisions at home rather than do the hard work of making the most efficient use of every local dollar spent."

###

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Subject: Buckeye Economist Orphe Divounguy: Ohio Created More Jobs than Expected in June

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July 21, 2017

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Buckeye Economist Orphe Divounguy: Ohio Created More Jobs than Expected in June

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute's lead economist Orphe Divounguy, Ph.D., commented on newly released unemployment data from the **Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.**

"Last month, the civilian labor force fell slightly (-0.1%) despite a small increase in the working-age population. However, in a positive sign, Ohio created more jobs than expected (0.2%), with non-agricultural wage and salary employment increasing 11,500 over the month, and employment in goods-producing industries standing at 909,500, an increase of 4,700 over the month.

"A declining labor force, coupled with positive job growth, indicates that while some

unemployed workers are finding jobs, others are leaving the labor force. One reason could be, the newly unemployed, those who had just returned to the labor force, lacked the skills employers look for and exited the market place.

"It is also likely that the job growth reflects a larger number of employed workers moving on to better jobs. This would be a positive sign, since the increase in job transitions should result in stronger wage growth.

"While job growth in 2017 has slowed, Ohio is not unique, as the state's employment picture is consistent with the rest of the US economy."

###

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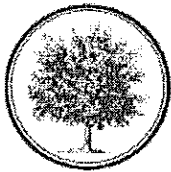
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July 26, 2017

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Buckeye Economist Orphe Divounguy: Although Still Growing, Ohio's Economy has Cooled Down

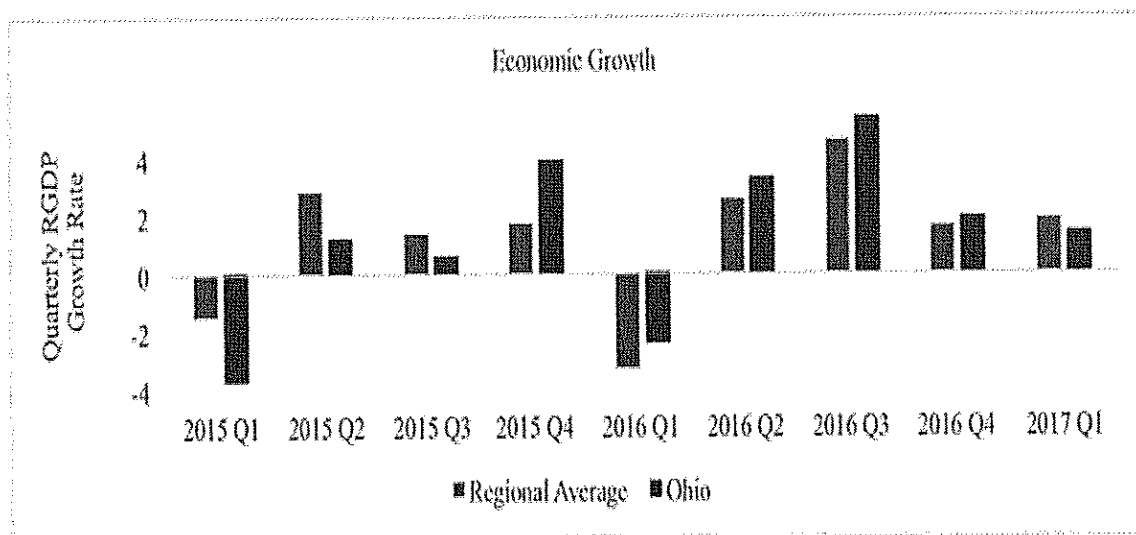
Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute's lead economist **Orphe Divounguy, Ph.D.**, commented on newly released data from the **Bureau of Economic Analysis**, that showed Ohio's economy grew by 1.4 percent in the first quarter of 2017, compared to 1.9 percent for the rest of the region.

"Despite outperforming its neighbor states for the previous five quarters, Ohio's economy seems to be cooling down. In light of the recent Ohio budget debate, reversing the Administration's income tax cuts would have been detrimental to the state's economy. This is because income tax cuts lift households' disposable incomes, freeing up resources for higher investment and job creation. Fortunately, both Ohio Governor John Kasich, and the

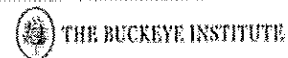
General Assembly have remained committed to reducing the tax burden on Ohio families and businesses.

"While Ohio had begun to adopt strong pro-growth tax policies, more must be done to ensure economic prosperity. Reforming the state's labor policies, such as reducing the burden of occupational licensing on Ohio workers, will make the state more competitive, grow the labor force, and help keep Ohio ahead of the pack.

"Economic growth cannot return to its golden age as long as Ohio has tax rates and a regulatory framework that penalize job creation and cause people to leave the state as a result of fewer economic opportunities. It is past time to walk back burdensome regulations that increase hiring costs as well as policies, such as occupational licensing requirements, that block Ohioans from getting good paying jobs. Ohio needs policies that will stimulate capital investment and boost economic activity."



Source: BEA Table Quarterly GDP by State



###

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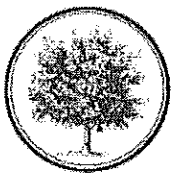
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Finally, Ohio to Review Tax Loopholes

By Greg R. Lawson
July 28, 2017

It's about time! Ohio is finally getting prepared to do a deep dive and **review** the state's voluminous list of tax loopholes. It is about time. The Buckeye Institute has long been a leader in calling for exactly this type of review so that loopholes are closed and any revenue generated be used for the kind of simple, fair and pro-growth tax reform that is needed to improve Ohio's economy and grow jobs.

As far back as 2011, The Buckeye Institute **joined with think tanks** from across the ideological spectrum to call for a detailed review of Ohio tax loopholes. Along with the **Greater Ohio Policy Center** and the **Center for Community Solutions**, The Buckeye Institute called for a comprehensive review that consisted of a cost benefit analysis of these loopholes as outlined by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) in their **Tax Expenditure Report**. Further, the three groups prepared a **list of 20 loopholes** that should have been eliminated, which, at the time, resulted in \$300 million of lost revenue.

Of course, with new loopholes added since 2011, these numbers undoubtedly are substantially higher than they were six years ago. In fact, OBM's latest **Tax Expenditure Report** outlined a total of 129 such loopholes with an estimated \$18.6 billion in lost revenue.

Fortunately, at the end of the last General Assembly **House Bill 9** was passed, to ensure that a legislative review of these loopholes takes place. Last week, leaders of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate appointed members to the committee created in House Bill 9, and while we are optimistic that the review can yield meaningful results, the panel as created in the bill fell short of ensuring that its hearings and deliberations will do so.

This is because, unlike the proposal supported by The Buckeye Institute and others, there is no automatic sunset for the tax loopholes. Without the pressure of the legislature having to proactively reauthorize these loopholes, it is easy to envision a situation where a report is produced and then subsequently gathers dust on a shelf. All who care about tax reform should work to prevent that outcome.

Reviewing these loopholes isn't the end of the legislature's job. While some are publicly calling on the General Assembly to close a wide range of these loopholes in order to raise more money for the state to spend, The Buckeye Institute looks at it quite differently.

Ohio should simplify the tax code and continue moving away from **growth hampering income taxes**. Further, given the overall good work of the General Assembly in passing one of the **tighter budgets** in recent memory, now is not the time to gin up the spending machine. The worst thing to do is to increase spending, which sets higher benchmarks for future spending that will make dealing with any inevitable recession a more arduous task.

As the Tax Expenditure Review Committee begins its work it is critical that they eliminate the loopholes that riddle Ohio's tax code and that the General Assembly focuses on setting a policy of predictable and prudent budgeting to keep Ohio's spending in check and our tax climate positive for job creation and hard-working Ohioans.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

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Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

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House Activity for Monday, August 7, 2017

INTRODUCED

HB 315 ■ **DAY DESIGNATION** (Arndt, S.) To designate October 6 as "S.M.A.R.T. Parent Day." En. 5.257

HB 316 ■ **PICNIC AREA NAMING** (Arndt, S., Stein, D.) To designate a picnic area in Kelleys Island State Park as the "Henry T. Beatty Memorial Picnic Area." Am. 1546.30

HB 317 ■ **TAX DEDUCTION** (Young, R.) To authorize, for six years, a personal income tax deduction for a physician based on the number of hours the physician provides uncompensated medical services through a hospital, free clinic, or nongovernmental medical organization. Am. 5747.01 and to enact section 5747.014

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Finance: Remove Representative Faber

Finance Subcommittee on State Government and Agency Review: Remove Representative Faber.

Public Utilities: Remove Representative Faber; appoint Representative Stein

Aging and Long Term Care: Appoint Representative Brown.

Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security: Appoint Representative Brown.

Civil Justice: Remove Representative Sykes; appoint Representative Brown.

State and Local Government: Appoint Representative Brown.

Power Siting Board: Remove Representative Hagan; appoint Representative Carfagna

New African Immigrants Commission: Kefa Otiso and Beatrice Miringu

Ohio Public Works Commission: Dean Ringle

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, August 8

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Appeals, ODOT District Three Office, 906 Clark Ave., Ashland, 8:30 a.m.

Third Frontier Commission, Rev1 Ventures, 1275 Kinnear Rd., Columbus, 10 a.m.
House Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, Netzley Room, Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Event Planner

National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit, Boston
Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) and Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) fundraiser, Mike and Samantha Hartley residence, 403 South Court Street, Circleville, 6 p.m., (\$1,000 Chair | \$500 Sponsor | \$250 Host | \$100 Supporter | \$75 per Couple | \$50 Individual to Peterson for Good Government and Troy Balderson for State Senator)

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Volume #86, Report #151 -- Monday, August 7, 2017

Collective Bargaining Consultant Contract Gets Controlling Board Approval

Controlling Board members on Monday approved a new contract for a Columbus law firm to do consulting work on collective bargaining issues after lawmakers asked about the job and procurement process for the contract.

Without objection, the board approved the \$480,000 contract between the Department of Administrative Services and Baker Hostetler, LLP. The firm will provide labor relations and collective bargaining consulting and negotiation services.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) asked if the state was developing the internal capacity to handle labor issues and contracts without having to pay outside help.

Jennifer Leymaster, chief financial officer for DAS, said negotiations for large contracts often require outside assistance.

"It is customary for us to seek outside consulting services when doing the negotiation for these major contracts, as I believe is customary for organizations of our size," she said.

Kristen Rankin, deputy director for the DAS Office of Collective Bargaining, said the work fluctuates year-to-year as different contracts come up for renewal.

She said the state has been working with Baker Hostetler since 2014 and the firm has a good understanding of the state's labor relations.

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) asked about the increase in the value of the contract this year, up from about \$300,000 last year.

Ms. Rankin said the state is entering negotiations with its largest union this year, meaning there will be more work ahead.

The board also approved several contracts from the treasurer's office after Sen. Tavares asked for the reasoning behind waiving competitive selection.

Deputy Treasurer Seth Metcalf said all of the items were continuations of ongoing projects. In one case, the office did receive another bid, but it was significantly higher than the bid by the existing contract. That project involves custom-built software designed by the current contractor.

"We suspect that the additional bid was very high because the learning curve for a new provider would have been significant," he said.

The board approved a request for more than \$8.3 million over two years from DAS for a contract for postage funds. Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) asked if other firms, such as Stamps.com, might be able to offer the state better rates.

Ms. Leymaster said firms like Stamps.com might not be able to handle the volume of mail the state sends out, but that DAS would look into it.

The board accepted a transfer of \$2.2 million from the Emergency Management Agency into its emergency fund, repaying the final payment of the money used to reimburse states that sent law enforcement to help at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland last year. The EMA said it has received reimbursement from Cleveland for all of the 18 states that assisted.

A request for \$605,961 from the Department of Developmental Disabilities to improve the fire alarm system at Cambridge Developmental Center was deferred.

Other items approved by the board included: (Agenda)

- \$534,000 - Central State University - for a library structural repair and modernization project.
- \$3.2 million - Clark State Community College - for renovation of Rhodes Hall.
- \$2.4 million - Columbus State Community College - for the Culinary and Hospitality School building project.
- \$226,275 - Department of Health - to purchase cystic fibrosis test kits.
- \$374,400 - Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services - for a contract for forensic psychiatric services at Summit Behavioral Healthcare in Cincinnati.
- \$1.2 million - Department of Developmental Disabilities - to contract with various providers for early intervention hearing services for children.
- \$1.1 million - Department of Natural Resources - for a contract amendment to provide construction administration and material testing at Buckeye Lake Dam.
- \$5.3 million - ODNR - to contract for improvements at a variety of state parks.
- \$749,510 - Department of Rehabilitation and Correction - to replace the roof at the Corrections Training Academy in Orient.
- \$53.6 million - Department of Transportation - for contracts with 52 consulting firms for a variety of services.

- \$212,154 - Bureau of Workers' Compensation - to renew a contract for IT services analyzing business processes.

Seitz Plans To Push For Passage Of Death Penalty Exemption Bill This Fall

The sponsor of a bill to exempt the seriously mentally ill from the death penalty expects the measure to move in the fall.

The legislation (HB 81) would exempt from the death penalty those diagnosed with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder or delusional disorder at the time a capital offense was committed.



Bill Seitz

"I'm raring and ready to go as soon as we get back to try and move this forward in the House," sponsoring Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) said in an interview.

The bill has had three hearings in the House Criminal Justice Committee. Rep. Seitz said he was ready to move the measure prior to lawmakers leaving town for summer vacations, but he was told to hold off.

"We were really ready to go at the end of session back a month ago, but they wanted to keep controversial things off the radar screen as we focused all of our attention on the conference committee process and budget overrides and things like that," he said.

Chairman Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) expressed uncertainty about the fate of the bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 4, 2017)

But Rep. Seitz said he is confident about the bill's prospects in the upper chamber.

"All I can tell Senator Bacon is that when I had the bill the last time in that chamber, there were 31 of 33 senators ready to vote for it. Maybe he hasn't started counting noses yet," he said, adding that the two opponents of the last version of the bill are now serving in the House.

The bill has run into stiff opposition from the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association. Executive Director John Murphy has said that current law already provides those suffering from mental illness with the opportunity to be deemed incompetent to stand trial or mount a not guilty by reasons of insanity defense. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 6, 2017)

Despite the opposition, Rep. Seitz does not believe the OPAA will be able to sink the bill.

"It's got an awful lot of support and the only people that have come out against it are the prosecutors and their reasoning doesn't satisfy me," he said. "They were opposed to it the last time on the same basis."

Given the state's recent resumption of the death penalty, Rep. Seitz believes the bill will gain even more traction. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 26, 2017)

"I think with all the recent furor over the resumption of executions in Ohio people ought to at least recognize this for progress in terms of narrowing the range of cases in which the death penalty may be imposed," he said.

The legislation is based off of one of several recommendations made by the Ohio Supreme Court's Joint Task Force to Review the Administration of Ohio's Death Penalty.

"The bottom line is this was a central recommendation of the death penalty task force," Rep. Seitz said.

Supporters Hope Palliative Care Measure Gains Traction After Recess

Legislation first offered last year and introduced again in June intends to increase awareness and access to palliative care for patients with serious health conditions.

The bill (HB 286), sponsored by Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls), would establish a state council to oversee palliative care and create programs to raise awareness and utilization of the approach.



Rep. LaTourette

It's a personal issue for the sponsor. Her father, former U.S. Rep. Steve LaTourette, received palliative care before his death last year from pancreatic cancer. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 7, 2017)

"I saw the dramatic difference that access to early palliative care had on his life and our lives," Rep. LaTourette said in an interview. "I want everybody in the state to be aware that palliative care is not just hospice care."

Rep. LaTourette first introduced the measure (HB603, 131st General Assembly) toward the end of the last General Assembly. It received a hearing before the House Health and Aging Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 26, 2016)

The new version of the bill retains almost all of that proposal's components but does not include provisions that would levy fees or fines on hospitals that don't comply, she said. That has eased some concerns from industry groups, she said.

The move toward expanding the reach of palliative care is a priority for advocacy groups such as the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, who included the practice on their annual report card for state cancer policies. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 4, 2017)

Jeff Stephens, ACS CAN's state government relations director for Ohio, said the group is also working on similar legislation at the federal level.

"It's a form of treatment that's been proven to increase health outcomes at a reduced overall health care cost. It works," he said.

The bill would create an interdisciplinary advisory council at the Department of Health and create a set of criteria to identify patients who are best suited to the care approach.

"We do a pretty OK job of offering it in Ohio but we need to build the pipeline of professionals who are coming into to this treatment and we need to educate patients about what palliative care is," he said.

Mr. Stephens said it's important for providers to consider how different palliative care can look in different parts of the state. While it typically includes the treating doctor, a pharmacist, social workers, spiritual leaders and others who surround the patient with support, that team could look different in rural areas than it would in cities with access to wide varieties of professionals.

"We're all very hopeful there's going to be movement on that this fall," he said.

The proposal hasn't yet been assigned to a committee, but Rep. LaTourette said it will probably go through the House Aging and Long-Term Care Committee.

"My hope is that shortly after we come back for the fall that we start moving quickly," she said.

Long-Awaited Federal Study To Protect Great Lakes From Asian Carp Released

A long-delayed federal plan to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes was released Monday after months of prodding from congressional delegates in Ohio and other states.

The report from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spells out \$275 million in proposals to upgrade the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Illinois in order to shield the lakes from the invasive species.

Ideas in the report include electric barriers, flushing locks, water jets, and complex noise generation. If approved, the project has an estimated completion date of 2025, according to the report. Critics have argued the plan could impede commercial traffic in the region.

The 488-page report was originally slated for release in February, but was delayed by the Trump Administration. Democrats have contended that the decision to delay the report was political in nature. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 1, 2017)

"It is encouraging to see that the U.S. Army Corps' recommendations include serious measures to deal with this invasive species," U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) said in a statement. "Now that we have real information on costs we can move on and receive input from stakeholders, whose livelihoods depend on us keeping the Asian carp out of the Lakes."

Both she and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) earlier this year introduced standalone legislation that would have forced the Trump Administration to make the study public. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 23, 2017)

"We are now one step closer to taking action to protect our Great Lakes from Asian carp," Sen. Brown said, "and I look forward to working with Sen. Portman and my other Great Lakes colleagues to turn this report into concrete actions that will benefit our Lakes."

The discovery of an Asian carp in June just nine miles from Lake Michigan added new urgency to the matter. It also prompted state officials to enter the fray, with Attorney General Mike DeWine writing late last month to the Department of the Army and saying the delay "in the face of this immediate threat is unacceptable." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 30, 2017)

There will now be a 45-day public review period for the draft report, ending Sept. 21. Comments will be accepted online, by letter and at public meetings yet to be scheduled.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) said the lakes and the local economies they support must be protected.

"The Great Lakes support a \$7 billion fishing industry and Lake Erie contributes more than \$10 billion to Ohio's tourism industry, both of which would be jeopardized if Asian Carp were allowed into the Great Lakes," he said. "It is important that the Corps remain on schedule to finalize the plan by January of 2019, and I look forward to working with stakeholders and the Corps to do just that."

Environmental groups praised the release, with the Alliance for the Great Lakes, the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council and several other groups issuing a joint statement.

"We look forward to reviewing the findings in detail and to continuing the conversation on this critical issue with elected officials and concerned citizens during the public comment period," the groups said. "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must listen carefully to public input on the study and then move quickly from study to implementation of additional protection measures at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam, a logical choke point in the system."

The Ohio Conservation Federation and its counterparts from Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin issued a similar joint statement.

"After months of unnecessary delay, we are excited that the potential options for improving defenses against Asian carp at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam will see the light of day," they said. "There is still much work yet to be done in this process. We look forward to working towards securing stronger protections to keep Asian carp out of our Great Lakes."

Environmental Groups Question Rover Excuses For Fuel In Wetland Spills

The company behind the Rover Pipeline project told federal regulators it believes it's possible traces of diesel fuel found in wetland spills earlier this year were planted by "malicious" opponents.

But environmental groups say the company is attempting to divert attention from Rover's actions and that increased security around the spill sites - by both the company and state regulators who were investigating the spills - renders the idea of sabotage "farfetched."

It's the latest back and forth between Rover Pipeline LLC, its parent Energy Transfer Partners, and advocates urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to halt construction of the 700-mile pipeline that has been at the center of controversy for months.

In its most recent filing (PDF) before FERC, the company for the first time agreed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's assessment that diesel fuel was present in millions of gallons of drilling mud spilled into Ohio wetlands at several sites earlier this year. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 2, 2017)

But Rover stopped short of accepting the blame, saying it "has no evidence that the diesel was the result of a spill or failed containment" experienced during its horizontal drilling and construction activity.

"This data alone, however, does not demonstrate that diesel fluid (or other petroleum hydrocarbons) entered the slurry as part of the HDD process or that there was a widespread impact," the company wrote.

"Rover theorizes that these diesel concentrations could have been caused by an inadvertent and unreported spill or leak from equipment operating during the clean-

up...or it could have been the deliberate or malicious act of individuals opposed to the project," the company continued. "Given the extensive inspection and oversight at this and other sites along the project, it is difficult to imagine that this occurred from an unreported spill or leak."

Cheryl Johncox of the Sierra Club's Beyond Dirty Fuels Campaign rejected that claim. She said in an interview that OEPA testing revealed fuel traces at several different sites.

"It's very unlikely somebody trying to sabotage the project would know where those sampling locations were," she said. "The other thing of note is this occurred on private property...(and) they were very actively patrolling that spill site and keeping people off. It's very unlikely somebody was able to access that area in order to sabotage the project."

Heather Taylor-Miesle, executive director of the Ohio Environmental Council, said the company's claims are the latest demonstration of the company's "lack of respect for Ohioans and our environment."

"Claiming they were sabotaged or framed without any evidence whatsoever is merely another attempt for Rover to deflect blame and avoid owning up to the consequences of their actions," she said. "We are taught in kindergarten to clean up after ourselves, and Rover should remember this important childhood lesson."

Regardless of how the fuel entered the slurry, the company said it is "deeply troubled by any of these potential scenarios and has taken steps to address these possible sources."

Those steps include reiterating to employees and contractors that all construction must adhere to the FERC certificate and other spill prevention and response procedures. Additionally, it will remind workers that secondary containment must be used for equipment working in or near wetlands and bodies of water and prompt notification is required for spills of hazardous materials.

In the event an outside agent introduced fuel to the situation, the company said it has increased security to oversee the Tuscarawas site and has "increased scrutiny of all personnel entering and leaving all HDD sites."

The filing comes one week after Kelcy Warren, CEO of Energy Transfer Partners, which is Rover's parent company, told federal lawmakers he was "baffled" by criticism of the company and allegations of rule violations from regulators and congressional Democrats following the spills.

Tavares Bill Aimed At Gender Pay Gap; Schiavoni Targets Charter Overpayments; Renacci, Pillich Announce Endorsements...

Equal pay and charter school funding are the subjects of hot-button measures recently introduced by two Democratic lawmakers.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) is behind legislation (SB 174) she dubbed the "Fair and Acceptable Income Required Act."

"It is shameful that in this day and age women in Ohio make only 78 cents for every dollar made by a man. Without question, equal work deserves equal pay," she said in a release announcing the bill. "At a time when women are increasingly responsible for the economic security of their families, it is absolutely critical to ensure that they earn a wage commensurate with their work - and on par with a man's."

The bill would require employers to substantiate pay differences, prohibit retaliation against workers who discuss salaries with colleagues and bar wage discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"While the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 improved some laws that govern pay discrimination, more must be done to close the wage gap and increase the economic security of women," Sen. Tavares said. "Fair pay would help close the wage gap and increase women's economic security."

Charter Overpayments: A gubernatorial candidate meanwhile is touting a measure to require all money recovered from overpayments to charter schools to be returned to district from which it was deducted. It comes on the heels of the state's plans to claw back funding from the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow over inflated enrollment data.

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) said his legislation is expected to be introduced this week.

"Ohio schools are struggling to manage after several years of cuts to their funding. It's only right that the state should return all money taken from these schools in error," he said. "This bill is simple: it creates a uniform rule that all money overpaid to charter schools is sent back to the affected school districts."

Endorsements Announced: Other gubernatorial candidates continue to rack up endorsements.

U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci (R-Alliance) announced the backing of Julie Prince in his bid to replace Gov. John Kasich. She directed Ohio operations and grassroots for Ted Cruz's 2016 presidential campaign.

"In the 2018 gubernatorial race, there is one clear choice for conservatives across Ohio, and that choice is Jim Renacci. Time and again Jim has demonstrated his unyielding commitment to the conservative reforms we need, but which entrenched Columbus insiders have failed to deliver," she said. "Jim is not afraid to take on the establishment or the career politicians who continue to pay lip service to conservatism while perpetuating the status quo."

Added Rep. Renacci: "In her position as the Grassroots and Operations Director for Ted Cruz's presidential campaign in Ohio, Julie played an instrumental role in advancing the

causes of conservatism and liberty - not just for our state, but for our nation as a whole. I am proud to serve as a voice for conservatives across Ohio in this critically important election, and I am committed to delivering the conservative agenda and reforms we so badly need as our state's next governor."

Meanwhile, former Rep. Connie Pillich announced that she has the support of the Cincinnati Building Trades in her Democratic primary contest.

"Connie Pillich is the proven fighter we need as our next governor. Born in the shadow of a steel mill, Connie knows what we face every day," Cincinnati Building Trades Executive Secretary Fred Lampe said. "She has an unrivaled record of standing up for working families, higher wages, and working to create good jobs. Connie has proven herself as the Democratic frontrunner in the race for governor and the Cincinnati Building Trades is proud to have her back."

Added Ms. Pillich: "I'm proud to be endorsed by the Cincinnati Building Trades because I'll never stop fighting for working families, good jobs, and better wages for workers. With the wind at our backs, our people-powered campaign is building more momentum everyday as we work to take Columbus back from the special interests."

Husted Appointment: Secretary of State Jon Husted announced the appointment of Marcella R. Bogenrife to the Madison County Board of Elections.

She was recommended for the post by the Madison County Republican Party Executive Committee.

Casino, Racino Revenue Up Big In July

The state's four casinos showed significant gains in revenue last month compared to June, and the racinos also saw a big uptick in what they took home.

The casinos brought in \$69.9 million in July, up from \$64.1 million the prior month and from \$66.1 million in July 2016, according to revenue reports released Monday by the Casino Control Commission.

Video lottery terminal revenue at the seven racinos totaled \$84.5 million for the first month of the fiscal year, up nearly \$6.5 million from where it was in June, the Ohio Lottery Commission reported.

Hollywood Columbus brought in the most money among casinos at \$18.9 million. That was up from \$17.7 million in June and just a bit above the \$18.6 million it brought in the previous July. The casino was highly dependent on slot machine revenue, with that accounting for \$13.5 million.

Hollywood Toledo also saw a big boost, rising to \$17.6 million from \$16.1 million the prior month. It was up more than \$1 million from \$16.5 million in July 2016. Like its sister

casino in Columbus, the Toledo location leaned heavily on slot machines, to the tune of \$14.8 million.

JACK Cleveland raked in \$16.9 million, up from \$15 million in June and \$15.5 million the previous July. The casino was the most balanced between slots and table games, with slots accounting for \$9.1 million and table games \$7.7 million.

JACK Cincinnati brought in \$16.7 million, up from \$15.4 million both in June and in July 2016. Slot machines accounted for \$10.7 million of the casino's take.

Racinos: Among the state's racinos, Hard Rock Racino-Northfield Park saw the largest gain from June to July, up \$2.7 million to \$22.3 million in revenue from VLT machines.

Scioto Downs was the second-biggest gainer, up \$1.25 million to \$14.25 million in July.

Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway was up \$643,130 to \$8.3 million, while JACK Thistledown was up \$605,814 to \$10.1 million.

Belterra Park's revenue was up \$529,680 over June's at \$7.4 million. Revenue at Miami Valley Gaming was up \$428,657 to \$12.4 million, and Hollywood Gaming Mahoning Valley Race Course gained \$300,155 to \$9.8 million.

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, August 9

State Emergency Response Commission, 2855 West Dublin-Granville Rd., Columbus, 1:15 p.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, August 21

OHROC Lake Erie Boat Cruise and Reception with Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Fremont), Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, 5:30 p.m., (5:30pm Arrive at Catawba Island Club; 6:00pm Depart on Burger Yacht "Gemini"; 8:00pm Reception. Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to OHROC)

Sunday, August 27

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) shooting fundraiser, Nagle Trucking, 4520 Moline-Martin Road, Walbridge, 1:30 p.m., (Expert: \$250; Sharpshooter: \$100 to Citizens for Gavarone)
Wednesday, September 13

Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Romanchuk for State Rep)
Friday, September 15

Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Tamarac Golf Course, 500 N. Stevick Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$500; Foursome: \$400; Green Sponsor: \$350; Lunch Sponsor: \$250; Individual Golfer: \$125 to Cupp for State Representative Committee)
Wednesday, October 11

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)
Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)
Wednesday, November 29

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Senate Activity for Monday, August 7, 2017

INTRODUCED

SB 175 ■ **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS** (Schiavoni, J.) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. Am. 3314.52

SB 176 ■ **MUNICIPAL TAXES** (Jordan, K.) To prohibit municipal corporations from levying an income tax on nonresidents' compensation for personal services or on net profits from a sole proprietorship owned by a nonresident. Am. 709.023, 718.01, 718.02, 718.03, 718.04, 718.05, and 718.16 and to repeal sections 718.011 and 718.50

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation: Appoint Senator Joe Uecker and Senator Sean O'Brien

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Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 1:44 PM
To: Miller, Brad; Fortney, John
Subject: hoping this is an easy question

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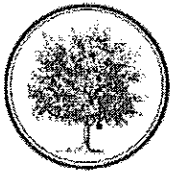
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 1:52 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: Buckeye Institute Amicus Brief Argues for Ohio's Right to Ensure Election Integrity

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

Buckeye Institute Amicus Brief Argues for Ohio's Right to Ensure Election Integrity

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court of the United States in the case *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute*, supporting Ohio's ability to ensure the integrity of its elections. In the brief, Buckeye argues that, according to *Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.*, a law that would not allow Ohio to maintain accurate voter registries is unconstitutional.

"Fair elections require states to keep their voting rolls current and accurate," said **Robert Alt**, president and chief executive officer at The Buckeye Institute. "The Buckeye Institute is proud to have filed a brief with the Supreme Court to defend Ohio's authority - granted by the Constitution - to do so."

As Secretary of State John Husted said in a **statement**, "This case is about maintaining the integrity of our elections, something that will be harder to do if elections officials are not able to properly maintain the voter rolls."

Ohio's case centers around the question of whether the state has the right to maintain an accurate and up-to-date statewide database of registered voters. In its brief, Buckeye argues that the U.S. Constitution is clear in giving states sovereign authority over voter qualifications, and Ohio has a clear interest in making sure that non-residents are unable to vote in its elections. To do this, the state's voter rolls must be as accurate as possible.

Using a process that Secretary of State Husted pointed out "has been in place for more than two decades and administered the same way by both Republican and Democrat secretaries of state," Ohio sends notices to inactive voters and if the inactive voter fails to respond to the notice, the person is removed from the voter rolls. This ensures that people who have moved are cleaned from the registry.

Questioning Ohio's constitutional right, opponents filed a suit claiming that the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) prohibited Ohio from maintaining an accurate and up-to-date voter list. As Buckeye stated in its brief, "If the NVRA is construed to prohibit Ohio's practice of sending confirmation notices to verify the residency of inactive voters, then the state's ability to enforce its residency requirement will be severely impaired."

The Buckeye Institute's amicus brief was filed on August 7, 2017.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

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Subject: RE: hoping this is an easy question

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From: rowland, darrel [mailto:drowland@dispatch.com]

Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2017 11:32 AM

To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: Re: hoping this is an easy question

John sent this as Senate policy on costs...wondering if House has anything like it.

The Senate does reimburse approved travel up to \$1,000.

Additional costs are paid for by each senator with their own personal funds, or through campaign funds.

Thanks.

Darrel Rowland

Public Affairs Editor

The Columbus Dispatch

614.461.5132

@darreldrowland

"So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known." - JC

On Wed, Aug 9, 2017 at 2:56 PM, Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov
<Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

Hi Darrel,

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Anne Gonzales

Mark Romanchuk

Scott Wiggam

Emilia Sykes

Michael O'Brien

Stephanie Howse

Adam Miller

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From: rowland, darrel [mailto:drowland@dispatch.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 1:44 PM

To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Fortney, John
<John.Fortney@ohiosenate.gov>

Subject: hoping this is an easy question

Seeking list of lawmakers from both parties who attended ALEC, NCSL, CSG this year...bonus points if you can address costs of each.

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To: Miller, Brad
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From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2017 4:11 PM
To: rowland, darrel
Subject: Re: hoping this is an easy question

I'm getting an education too!

Sent from my iPhone

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